

Upcoming Retreat at ICBC
 “3 Restored Women of the Bible”
 Rev. Jeff Johnson – ABCOPAD Staff will be our speaker
 September 30, 2017
 All women welcome.
 \$7.00 for lunch
 Registration: 9-9:30 and closing 3 p.m.
 This event is sponsor by ABCOPAD, ABWM PA/DEL,
 Monongahela Assoc., and ICBC ABWM
 Make time to come out, register, and have a great Saturday
 of restoring yourselves at ICBC.

Every Thursday now through August - Soft ball
August 6 – Missionaries Mike and Marcy Brown
August 6 - Lord’s Supper
August 17 – Faith Night for the Pittsburgh Pirates
August 29th at 7:30 p.m. Men’s Ministry
September 3 – Last Campground Service
September 3 – No Evening Worship Service
September 10 – Sunday School Rally at ICBC
September 24 – Gideons International Speaker
September 30 – Women’s Retreat at ICBC
October 1 - Lord’s Supper
October 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Woman Choice Network

The Baptist Beacon is sponsored by the ICBC Couples Class. The next Beacon will come out at the beginning of October and will include activities from July, August, and September. Any submissions for the Beacon should be sent as Word Documents or in the body of an email to the Beacon editor by Sunday, September 24, 2017.

Mail: Attn Beacon
 311 Baptist Church Rd
 Mill Run PA 15464
 Email: icbcbeacon@gmail.com

*Please send any addresses changes to this address.
 If you no longer want to receive the Beacon or would
 rather get it by email, please let us know also.*



The Baptist Beacon

April, May, June 2017

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INDIAN CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
 311 Baptist Church Road
 Mill Run PA 15464-1058

Address Service Requested

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 Beacon Email: icbcbeacon@gmail.com

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From the Desk of Pastor Chris



"The true man of God is heartsick, grieved at the worldliness of the Church, grieved at the toleration of sin in the Church, grieved at the prayerlessness in the Church. He is disturbed that the corporate prayer of the Church no longer pulls down the strongholds of the devil." – Leonard Ravenhill

It was a Saturday night in our church kitchen, when I finally had a chance to relax and talk to my dad uninterrupted for an extended period of time. My parents are wonderful grandparents, and so, when they visit, their time is almost completely eaten up by my children (We love this, as do the boys, and my parents... even if I'm sure they are worn out by the time they leave!) As I began to talk to my father, without anyone else around, I found myself able to have a conversation we used to have all of the time: a real heart to heart talk about our walks with God. This isn't to say we don't talk about our walks, we do- but there is only so deep you can get when you are trying to connect via text, or, in person with little people trying to hit you with lightsabers. My dad always asks the same question, "How's your prayer life?"

For the child of God, there is no greater indication of one's walk with the Lord than an honest evaluation of one's prayer life. When we pray, we acknowledge our humble state. We also acknowledge God's holiness, power, and loving kindness towards us.

My father asks this question, always, in the context of his inquiry into God's ministry through me. As I reflect upon our conversation in the kitchen, I am challenged by the fact that my dad has never asked me the sort of questions pastors are prone to being asked: "How large is the congregation you serve?" "Are you growing?" "What new evangelism program are you trying?" And the reason he never asks these questions is revealing: because those questions don't ultimately reveal the health of one's walk with the Lord. Churches can swell in attendance without honoring God (I am convicted by the line that *you can always fill a stadium for a concert*), and evangelism is only effective if it is God's power at work through the believer. And how do believers tap into that power? Through dynamic prayer! In fact, Leonard Ravenhill once quipped, "Any method of evangelism will work if God is in it!"

As God's children, set apart for a mission, it is imperative that we don't get caught up in defining our relationship with God based on secondary standards. We should not become discouraged if we aren't seeing overwhelming or instant results in our labor for the Lord. Likewise, we should never say, "I am a healthy Christian because I have been attending the same church for X amount of years" or "I am being effectively used by God because the class I teach is growing." Those are wonderful things, in and of themselves, but, they aren't the standard. Jesus said to abide in Him, and we would bear much fruit. As you read this article, I want to challenge you with the simple question my father asks me: How's your prayer life?

This Year's Campers

Dara Pritts – Camp Sonrise Mountain **and** Camp Carmel

Rachel Grimm – Camp Christian **and** Camp Carmel

Madison Kinneer – Camp Carmel

Ella Hixson – Camp Christian

Kaydance Oldham – Camp Carmel

Isaiah McLaughlin – Camp Christian

Courtney Crider – On staff at Camp Carmel

Compiled by Mike Bigam
(* Service at Mill Run UMC; + Sunday School Rally; -- No service)

ATTENDANCE	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23	4/30	5/7	5/14	5/21	5/28	6/4	6/11	6/18	6/25
Sunday School	107	95	78	94	117	104	92	85	90	109	91	78	93
Morning Church	193	150	166	129	155	129	159	147	144	162	159	132	220
Evening Church	*	115	--	42	38	*	--	49	*	48	38	--	

Graduates

Amber Anderson – West Virginia Junior College/Associates Degree in Nursing
She will be working as an RN at Westmoreland Hospital

David Curry – Connellsville Area High School/Diploma

Derek Orndorff - Connellsville Area High School/Diploma

He was in National Honor Society, Student Council, Peer Mentor, Good Neighbors Club, Academic All-Star, Penn State Fayette 4.0 Club, Varsity Baseball Letterman and Captain
He will be attending Penn State at University Park to study Kinesiology and play baseball for the Nittany Lions Baseball Team

Alec Richter - Connellsville Area High School/Diploma

He was in Band, Marching Band, and Honors Band
He will be attending Pitt at Greensburg in the fall and he is interested in Chemical Engineering

Kaitlyn Ross – Penn Commercial/Medical Assistant

She is working at Centerville Clinics Family Doctors
She may continue her education in the nursing field

District 11 Sunday School Association Rally

Submitted by Brian Dull

On Sunday evening June 25, 2017 the District 11 Sunday School Association Rally was held at the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. A total of 65 people attended. ICBC won the red banner for having the most in attendance, and Normalville United Methodist won the blue banner for having the highest percentage of their total Sunday School roll in attendance. John Tressler led the singing and pianist was Jeanne Meyers. Barney Shipley moderated the Rally and opened with scripture and prayer.

Special music for the evening included a duet by Ray Knopsnider and Pastor Stephen Lamb singing “The Statute of Liberty”. The ICBC Senior Choir sang “All Because of God’s Amazing Grace”. Donna Fosbrink led the congregation in singing the Blue Grass gospel song “Down to the River to Pray”.

The next Sunday School Rally will be held here at ICBC on September 10th. The speaker for the night will be Reverend Frank Lewis III, a retired pastor who currently serves as chaplain with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections at SCI Fayette. Reverend Lewis was named Pennsylvania’s “Correctional Chaplain of the Year” in 2016. We’re greatly looking forward to hearing how the Lord has been working through his ministry. Please come out and enjoy a good program and an evening of fellowship!

Hope to see you there!

ICBC ABWM ANNUAL CALENDAR PARTY

Submitted by Pam Hughes

The project for this year's calendar party was "Camping for Christ". We chose this theme because of the ABWM PA/DEL Regional Project and Camp Carmel is our local camp.

Women of the church volunteered to use their creative talents and decorate tables with various themes: Spring, Legos, Thanksgiving, St Patrick's Day, Flip flops, Camping, Valentine's Day, Raggedy Ann & Andy, Western, Christmas Trees, Country, May Day, School Days, and more. Good soup and salads as well as dessert were donated.

All the money from the tickets as wells as donations totaled \$2,000. What a great way to support a project.

We had door prizes donated by local business and individuals that used their creative talents.

Our program consisted of a short power point presentation, Dara Pritts shared her camping experience and Nicole Tressler Bright shared about her time there. We had people who went to camp 50 years ago and those who just attended.

We had a wonderful time and hope to see you next year.

Strands of Pearls

Submitted by Janet Grimm and Amy McLaughlin

On Sunday, May 7th at 1:00 p.m., we gathered together to honor and celebrate mothers and daughters with a brunch. Twenty-six ladies, young and old, were in attendance. The tables were simply decorated with pink table clothes and white lace placemats. The centerpieces were round glass vases filled with water and pearls with a floating candle. These were placed on a square mirror. The favors were white pearl shaped chocolates in a netting tied with pink ribbon.

We started off by going around the room and asking each lady to share a "Pearl of Wisdom" that her mother had taught her. Our brunch consisted of ham, broccoli or mushroom quiche, strawberry spinach salad, blueberry muffins, and finished off with lemon cheesecake.

We had a devotion taken from Julia Bettencourt's "Strands of Pearls". The devotion listed 23 characteristics of a Proverbs 31 woman that each one of us should strive to attain. Some come easy and others we have to work at, but through our Bible reading, prayer life, and fellowship with the Lord, we are empowered to take that thread in our hands and strand our 'pearls' as we go through life. It makes us the strong and vibrant Christian women that are beautiful 'strands of pearls' in the end. During the devotion, the ladies made a pearl bracelet and were given a bookmark with the 24 characteristics on it as a reminder. It was a pleasure to serve and fellowship with each of the ladies who attended.

The blueberry muffin recipe that we used can be found on this web site:

<http://www.layersofhappiness.com/homemade-best-ever-blueberry-streusel-muffins/>

Father-Son Cookout

Submitted by Pastor Chris

Every summer, the guys from ICBC gather together on one Saturday evening to enjoy a time of fellowship. This year, we had 27 men/children in attendance. John Tressler did most of the planning for our event, and Richard Broadwater prepared the burgers. In case anyone is curious, we were able to knock out 50 hamburgers. In addition to eating, we played cornhole.

I led a devotional, which I adapted from a resource on the CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ) website. This devotional discussed the five themes of biblical manhood: controlled emotions and passions, provision for family, protection of family, servant leadership, and submission to God's design for manhood.

It is my desire to see the men of our church gather more frequently than once a year. For this reason, I asked the men who gathered if they would be willing to fill out a questionnaire. This questionnaire asked prompts such as, "When would be the best time to gather?" "Would you be interested in attending a men's ministry?" "What primary focus would you like to see in a men's ministry?" and "What format would you like in a men's ministry?" Those questions were answered as follows:

The majority of the men were interested in attending a men's ministry (Two indicated they were unable to attend)

The best day/time for a men's ministry would be Tuesday evenings, after 7 p.m.

For a primary focus, three prompts were heavily favored (in order): topical study, Bible study, and serving others

For format, most men indicated they were "not particular." However, for those who were particular, a video-based curriculum was most appealing.

This was helpful information. It is my intention to launch a men's ministry soon, with our first gathering being August 29th at 7:30 p.m. We will continue to gather on the last Tuesday evening of every month at 7:30. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, especially in a leadership role, please contact me.

BYF Picnic

Submitted by Bonita Warrick

On Sunday May 21 for several hours before church, the Jr. and Sr. BYF youth met with their leaders for a end of the season picnic. About 30 youth and their leaders met and enjoyed pizza, chips cookies etc. Pastor Chris did a short devotion. Then the kids had fun with the basketballs, scooters, jump ropes etc. A few organized games were played. This was the first time that the youth had ever heard of "Duckie Wucky." I think they liked it! Also "Steal the Bacon" showed how quickly they could react. We honored the 5th graders who will be leaving Jr. BYF and going into Sr. BYF in the fall and also honored one senior who was graduating and leaving Sr. BYF. We invite all youth to come in the fall, grades Kindergarten thru 5th grade to Jr. BYF and grades 6-12 into Sr. BYF. It's a great time to learn more from God's Word and have a fun time also. We will be announcing when it will start sometime in Sept.

God's Tots

Submitted by Patty Show

God's Tots recently finished their year. It had been a great year with our largest group of preschoolers since we started in December 2009. We had 41 registered preschoolers with an average attendance of 28. We have been so blessed as we watch God working in the lives of these children and their families.

Our end of the year field trip was to the Springfield Twp. Volunteer Hose Company. The fireman graciously took their time to bring out the firetruck and equipment for the children. They explained fire safety and the use of 911. The children were given the opportunity to try using the phone to call 911. After talking about what to do in case of a fire and a escape plan for your home, they were able to explore the firetruck. The firemen distributed fireman hats and magnets to the preschoolers.

Also we had a visit from Patrolman Sam Beucher of the Connellsville Police Department. Sam talked about the equipment that he uses to protect the people and himself. The children were given the opportunity to sit in the driver seat of the patrol car. He then gave all the children a coloring sheet and badge.

After our time with the fireman and police officer, we headed to Resh's Park in Indian Head for a picnic lunch. The weather was warm and a perfect day for a picnic. The children had time to play on the playground and then feast on a hot dog lunch. After lunch we honored our preschoolers who will be going to kindergarten in the fall. This year we had 10 children moving on to school in 3 different school districts.

God's Tots is taking a summer break but we will return in September. We always meet every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the church gym. There is no charge to attend and we welcome all preschoolers to join us, just bring an adult along.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

**Becky Broadwater and Mindy Santore
VBS Directors**

During the week of June 19th through the 23rd an average of 163 children, teachers and helpers attended this year's VBS.

Our theme this year was Hero Central- Discover Your Strength in God!. Through stories in the Bible, students discover that they are God's heroes, equipped with heart, courage, wisdom, hope and power. The children were encouraged to develop a personal relationship with the Lord.

During our VBS week we listened to Bible stories, sang songs, played games, enjoyed recreation, ate snacks and made crafts. Our mission project this year encouraged the students to bring in pennies for the purchase of a goat, sheep and pig for a village through Heifer International. The students collected \$360.94 in pennies.

Captain Shield (played by Gabriel Kemp) and Flame (played by Faith Firestone) performed in a skit each day and at our closing program. They took us to their city headquarters, Hero Central. Both characters taught the students that we are all God's heroes and helped them discover their own superpowers that they have in God.

On Friday, we ended our VBS with a picnic held in the gymnasium. During morning worship service on Sunday, June 25th, the children performed in a closing program. Each class was featured singing the various songs we learned throughout the week. A DVD presentation was also enjoyed by those in attendance.

The Lord blessed our Bible School this year by providing so many willing workers. Everyone worked hard and gave so much of their time and talents to make our VBS a success. Children are a blessing from the Lord and helping with Bible School is a way to show love and appreciation for the children He has blessed us with. A sincere thank you to everyone who has helped this year.

Youth News

Submitted by Tiza Dunaway

Wow, we are blessed to have so many youth out there using their God-given gifts & talents! Always remember Whose you are & represent Him well in all you do. Congratulations on all you have accomplished. Your church family is praying for you & proud of you :)

Jett Dunaway received Highest Honor Award for earning straight A's as his final grade for all classes in 3rd grade.

Rachel Grimm received Highest Honors for the last 9 weeks of school & for the entire year. Rachel was also on the Connellsville Sr. High Girls Varsity Track Team. She is a 2 year Lettermen. She received the MVP Girls Award from the Fayette County Track Coaches Association County Championships & she participated at WPIAL's.

Gabriel Kemp plays baseball for Connellsville Hurricane's, Connellsville Junior Legion, & Mill Run County Team. He made the Honor Roll for the 4th 9 weeks.

Logan Kemp was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. He earned Highest Honors for the 4th 9 weeks. Logan plays in the Thunder Travel Baseball Team. He also went to State Competition with Connellsville High School Trap Shooting Team. He tied for 21st place in the state.

Teran Kemp was on the Stage Crew for the Springfield Elementary Talent Show. He is a member of the All-

Star Band. Teran received Principals Honor Award for receiving all A's for his final grades & a special gift for receiving all A's throughout his entire elementary career!

Madison Kinneer received straight A's for the 4th 9 weeks & made Highest Honors. She was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Madison just attended Basketball Camp & will go to Camp Carmel in July.

Meredith Kinneer made the Honor Roll for the 4th 9 weeks. She attended the International Gymnastics Camp for a week where she made a lot of new gym friends! She finished this competition season with a title of a State Bar Champion!

Miles Kinneer played his 1st Season of Tee Ball.

Kaydance Oldham had her dance recital at Kids & Company in June. She is playing softball for CGSL where she is pitching & playing 1st base. She is doing barrel racing with her horse & will be doing a rodeo at The Fayette County Fair. She will also be attending Camp Carmel in July!

Bailey Pritts is playing on the Miracle League Baseball Team.

Dara Pritts was inducted into The National Junior Honor Society.

Amelia Santore performed in Premier Dance Center's recital entitled "Unstoppable". Amelia performed with her Beginners I Ballet Class & Beginners I Jazz Class.

Nicholas Santore received Highest Honors Award at Springfield Elementary School for earning straight A's for all his final grades.

Nicholas Santore, Jett Dunaway, & Porter Steyer played on the LHTC Baseball Team for Dunbar Little League Minor Team. They made it to the Championship Game & had a great season.

Cade Warrick is playing American Legion Baseball for Connellsville. He is also playing for Mill Run County League. Cade made the Honor Roll for the 4th 9 weeks.

Luke Warrick is playing for Connellsville Junior American Legion. Luke made the Honor Roll for the 4th 9 weeks.

Wedding Announcement

Adam Crider and Molly Sain were united in marriage on January 14, 2017 in an outdoor wedding at the Raleigh Rose Garden in Raleigh, NC. Immediate family attended the wedding. Then on April 29, 2017 a "Happily Ever Reception" was held at Mammoth Park to celebrate with approximately 125 family and friends. They are residing in Raleigh NC. Adam works at the Alexander Family YMCA and Molly is an Asst. Kindergarten teacher in the Wake County School District.

Birth Announcement

Ellee June Owen was born on April 28th. She was 8lbs. 5oz. 21in. long. She is welcomed by parents Jonathan and Bethany (May) Owen and proud big brother Cole. Proud grandparents are Keith and Susie May and John and Jane Owen. Great Grandparents are Roger and Naomi Eicher and Norma May.

In Sympathy

Barry Wayne Dahl died at home in Taylorsville, MD. on May 14, 2017, at age 71. Barry was born in 1945 to the late Charles 'Petey' Dahl and Louise (Stull) Dahl. He served as captain in the U.S. Army 1971-1973; he earned his dental degree from Univ. of Pittsburgh and practiced in Columbia, MD. for 43 years. He was a member of Ebenezer United Methodist Church. Barry is survived by his wife, Michelle Dahl and sons, Gregory Dahl, of Kodiak, Alaska, and William Dahl, of Bridgeport, W.V. and daughter Jennifer McGowan; he is also survived by 3 grandchildren. His funeral service was held at Indian Creek Baptist Church and a memorial service will be held at Ebenezer Methodist, date to be announced. His family request donations in his memory to 'Helping Up Mission', 1029 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD. 21202

John French Kooser "Frenchie", of Normalville passed away suddenly on Tuesday May 23, 2017 at his home. He was born May 17, 1931 in Mill Run , the son of the late Henry and Bertha Dull Kooser. He graduated from

Connellsville High School in 1950. He was a lifelong member of the Indian Creek Baptist Church where he was a member of the church choir and held numerous positions in the church. He also attended the Poplar Run Church of God of Prophecy. He worked for Anchor Hocking for 34 years retiring in 1986 and then worked at the Seven Springs Resort for 20 years retiring in 2006. In addition, he drove school bus for many years in the Connellsville Area School District for Colborns and he owned a beef cattle farm with his son John. He is survived by his daughter Tamera Kooser-Jordan and husband Michael of Normalville, brother Robert Kooser and wife Donna and brother Van Kooser and wife Mollie, both of Mill Run; girlfriend Twila Balsley of Normalville and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents he was predeceased by his wife Grace Richter Kooser on September 29, 2009 and his son John Kooser on July 8, 2009. A funeral service was held at Brooks Funeral Home in Melcroft, PA on May 27. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions are suggested to the Poplar Run Church of God of Prophecy or to the Indian Creek Baptist Church in memory of John French Kooser.

Robert Daniel Horne, 76, of Jackson Twp., Ohio passed away on May 8, 2017. Robert was born in Pittsburgh, PA on June 3, 1940 to the late Rev. Philip and Katherine Horne. He served in the US Air Force during Vietnam and retired from the BF Goodrich Co. Robert was a good man who loved his family, especially his grandsons. Preceded in death by his brothers, Philip and Dave Horne. He is survived by his sons, Greg Horne and Daniel (Stacey) Horne; grandsons, Justin and Joshua Horne; brothers, Thomas (Debbie) Horne, John (Darlene) Horne and Donald (Debbie) Horne; and sister, Virginia (Larry) Knight. A Funeral service was held on Saturday May 13, 2017 at Evangel Baptist Church Bridgeport, WVA. His brother, Pastor Thomas Horne officiated.

Charles E. Firestone, 81, of Normalville, passed away Friday, May 12, 2017, in Presbyterian Hospital, Pittsburgh. He was born Feb. 29, 1936, in Normalville, a son of the late Charles D. (Chick) and Eleanor (Ellie) Pritts Firestone. He was a member of the Critchfield Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Mill Run. He was retired from Nicholson Lumber Co., where he was employed as a truck driver for several years. Charles was a U.S. Army Veteran, having served in the infantry division as a ranger and paratrooper. He enjoyed the outdoors and spending time with his family. He was a member of the Connellsville Elks, a member of King Solomons Lodge 346, Free and Accepted Masons, Connellsville, having served as past master in 1999 and 2000. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Porterfield Firestone; a daughter, Crystal Firestone Pritts and husband Larry of Normalville; a son, David Firestone and wife Angela and their daughter, Abigail Firestone of Mt. Pleasant; stepchildren, Robbie Miner and wife Christy, Jami Miner Upton and husband Brian; step-grandchildren, Robin Upton and Mitch, Ryan Upton and Rylee Upton; great-grandson, Jayden Upton; brothers, Bill Firestone and wife Darlene of Mill Run, Bob Firestone and wife Yuki of Washington, and Ken Firestone and wife Donna of Normalville; a sister, Nora Schell of Florida; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. A funeral service was held at Vito C. Martucci Funeral Home in Connellsville on May 17th. Pastor Randy Newell officiated.

Greetings from Mill Run and Thank You

Patty Ann Dull

Well, as with most things, some of us are enjoying the hot hazy days, and some of us are not.

I only have one thank you this time, for a donation to help with printing and mailing of the ‘Beacon’. It came from Barry Dahl, of Taylorsville, MD. He sent us a check in April and three weeks later we heard the sad news that he had died suddenly. I only met Barry once since I’m not from Mill Run, where he grew up. In 1999 Marlyn and I were having our house built across the road from Barry’s Dad. Trucks moving on and off our property had carried a lot of mud onto the road. Since rain would soon come, I took an industrial-sized broom and started to brush it to the sides. Barry was visiting his Dad for a few days and came out to say, “As far as Dad and I are concerned, you don’t have to do that.” I told him that I wanted to try my best, so he walked back to the house, brought out a broom, and helped me. So, that’s how he was and how he will be missed. An obituary is included in this issue. Until next time, keep in touch and in prayer.

